

14

FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION,

FOR

THE IMPROVEMENT

OF THE

Culture of Flax in Ireland,

AND THE

PROMOTION OF THE GROWTH IN THE SOUTH AND WEST,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1870.

BELFAST:
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INSTRUCTIONS for the Culture and Preparation of FLAX,

Published by this Association, can be had Gratis and Free by
Post on application to

MICHAEL ANDREWS,

Secretary.

10, Donegall Square West,
Belfast.

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RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

I. This Association shall be named "THE FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION," and its objects shall be to promote the skilled growth and handling of the flax crop, and to give facilities for the purchase of seed and the sale of the fibre.

II. The Association shall endeavour to attain these objects by the following means :—

1. As a good system of Agriculture is indispensable to good Flax-growing, it shall offer its cordial and active co-operation to Agricultural Societies, and shall also encourage the establishment of Farmers' Clubs, as a means for the diffusion of useful information and for encouraging competition.
2. It shall, if necessary, select and appoint Flax Instructors for such districts as may appear to be in need of their services.
3. It shall do all in its power to further the efforts of Landed Proprietors who may be desirous of extending or improving flax culture among their tenants ; and to enable them and others applying to the Association, to procure Flaxseed of the best quality, and on favourable terms.
4. It shall consider all applications for aid from its funds for the erection of scutch-mills, or the supply of machinery, and shall do its utmost to meet these wants in favourable localities, provided that there is sufficient local co-operation.

5. It shall offer Prizes to stimulate invention and improvement in scutching machinery, and for such other objects as shall be deemed desirable.
6. It shall take into careful consideration applications for the establishment of local markets or depots, or for the transmission of Flax for sale in Belfast, or elsewhere, and shall take such steps thereupon as, on conference with those locally interested, shall seem most desirable.

III. Subscribers of One Guinea per annum and upwards shall be enrolled as members of the Association, and shall be regarded as such until they furnish notice in writing to the Secretary of their intention to withdraw. No member shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Association whose subscription shall be six months in arrear.

IV. The business of the Association shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, a Council (not exceeding forty members), a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

V. The President shall remain one year in office, and shall be eligible for re-election. Five members of the Council shall retire annually, and shall not be eligible for re-election until they have been one year out of office.

VI. A General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the month of January in each year, at which officers shall be elected, reports read, rules made or altered, and such other business transacted as may be brought before it.

VII. The Council shall meet at least once in each alternate month for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Association, five to form quorum; and the Secretary is empowered, when business requires it, to call *ad interim* meetings; and is further authorized to call Special Meetings at the request of five of its members.

VIII. The Council shall have power to appoint Special Committees, consisting of at least three of its members.

IX. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Association, and Lodge the same in the Bank which shall be appointed to keep the account.

X. All accounts shall be submitted to the Council at its meetings, and, when approved of, cheques in payment thereof shall be signed by the Chairman of the day and one other member of the Council, and countersigned by the Secretary.

XI. The appointment or dismissal of the Secretary shall rest with the Council, who shall furnish him with full instructions as to his duties.

XII. No alteration in the Rules shall be made unless approved of by two Meetings of the Council, and ratified by a General Meeting of the Association.

FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1870.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of this Association was held on 31st January, 1871, in the Chamber of Commerce—the President (John Mulholland, Esq., D.L., J.P.,) in the chair. There were also present—J. W. M'Master, J.P.; Thomas Valentine, J.P.; James Andrews, J.P.; John Savage, J.P.; Robert L. Hamilton, Michael Andrews (Secretary), James Montgomery, Charles Bowles, J. W. Valentine, W. S. Mitchell, Robert M'Geagh, Jas. Hind, John Hogg, John Lowry, Archibald Reynolds, J. Coleman, Charles W. Shaw, Henry Kirk, John Oulton, J. Ward, Joseph Lowry, R. Porter, J. Johnston, and Alexander Cook.

The Secretary (Mr. Andrews) read the minutes of last Annual Meeting, which were signed, and the following

REPORT.

This is the fourth Annual Report which this Association has had the privilege of presenting to the public; and had it not been for the effect of the dry scorching weather during the season when the flax crop was being grassed, the year 1870 would have ranked among the most favourable flax seasons which have occurred in Ireland for many years past; and the production of flax, although the acreage under the crop was less than in 1869, would have shown a considerable increase over that year. Not only the quantity but the quality of the fibre has suffered from

injudicious handling by the farmers, which cannot be attributed to laxity on the part of this Association, as, had the advice been attended to which was given through the medium of a circular, issued and largely circulated at "pulling time," the result of this season's crop would have been more favourable. The purport of this circular (see appendix No. 2) was "water well and leave little more than drying necessary on the grass."

According to the return issued by the Registrar-General early last August, the following is the comparative view of the acreage under flax in each province in Ireland, in the years 1869 and 1870 :—

		1869.		1870.
Ulster,	-	211,092	acres.	180,416 acres.
Munster,	-	3,808	"	4,188 "
Leinster,	-	5,265	"	4,239 "
Connaught,	-	9,087	"	6,050 "
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		229,252		194,893

showing a decrease of 34,359 acres in 1870 as compared with 1869.

In order to arrive at the approximate quantity of flax produced in Ireland in the year 1870 query slips were issued, as was done last year, to scutch mill owners in each county in Ulster, and to districts in Leinster, Munster, and Connaught where flax was cultivated for a return of actual quantities scutched, and the result is most satisfactory as compared with the yield per acre in Ulster and gross produce in the preceding year.

The comparative approximate produce of flax fibre, according to these returns, will stand thus :—

	Acres.	1869. Stones per Acre.	Gross Produce.	Acres.	1870. Stones per Acre.	Gross Produce.
Ulster,	211,044	at 24·58	5,187,462	180,416	at 29·19	5,267,247
Connaght,	9,080	" 25·18	228,634	6,050	" 27·99	169,342
Leinster,	5,258	" 30·49	160,316	4,239	" 29·60	125,503
Munster,	3,796	" 34·45	130,772	4,188	" 32·53	136,249
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	229,178		5,707,184	194,893		5,698,341

or in 1869, 35,670 tons flax ; and

in 1870, 35,615 "

From this statement it will be observed that with a diminished acreage in 1870 of 34,359 acres, there is only a diminished produce of 55 tons of flax, in other words, with a reduced acreage of 14·90 per cent. there is only a reduced produce of fibre of 0·15 per cent. In Ulster, with a reduction of 30,676 acres in 1870 under flax, as compared with 1869, there is an increase of no less than 498 tons of fibre.

These figures should certainly do away with the exaggerated idea that Ulster's powers to produce remunerative flax crops are exhausted. An endeavour was made in last annual report to allay this impression by analogy, but on the present occasion convincing facts can be brought forward, which the following statement of the relative produce per acre in each province in Ireland for 1869 and 1870 will make still more apparent:—

		1869.		1870.
In Munster,	-	34·45	stones.	32·53 stones.
Leinster,	-	30·49	"	29·60 "
Connaught,	-	25·18	"	27·99 "
Ulster,	-	24·58	"	29·19 "
Ireland,	-	24·90	"	29·24 "

The preponderance of production being so large in Ulster makes the yield for all Ireland very much depend on the yield in that province, and taking the produce per acre in Ireland, which, according to these returns, was:—

In 1869,	-	24·90 stones.
1870,	-	29·24 "

being an excess of 4·34 stones in 1870, or 17·43 per cent.

It may also be remarked that the acreage produce of Ulster ranks more favourably in 1870, as compared with the other provinces than has been the case for many years past, and it is reasonable from these figures to attribute the result of the flax crop more to season than any other cause.

To show the sphere which exists for the extension of the culture of flax in Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, it is considered desirable to introduce the following statement:—In the year 1870, as was before mentioned, the approximate quantity of

flax produced in Ireland was 5,698,341 stones of 14lbs. each, of which

Ulster,	yielded	5,267,247 stones, or	92.43 per cent.
Connaught,	"	169,342	2.97 "
Leinster,	"	125,503	2.20 "
Munster,	"	136,249	2.40 "
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100.00			

this is still more palpably illustrated by taking the comparative area appropriated to flax, with the total acreage under crop in 1870, as follows :—

		Acres under crop.	Acres under flax.	Per cent.
Ulster,	-	1,923,137	180,416	9.38
Connaught,	-	760,903	6,050	0.80
Leinster,	-	1,599,523	4,239	0.26
Munster,	-	1,358,993	4,188	0.31
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Ireland,		5,642,556	194,893	3.45

Although to some extent irrelevant to the subject, the Registrar-General's return of the increase, under the head of "Meadow and Clover," in 1870 over that of 1869 is of interest and importance with respect to flax culture in Ireland. The statement as under indicates the tendency in Ireland to substitute grass lands for tillage, and this is more palpable in Ulster than in the other provinces.

In Ulster the increase was	-	36,180 acres
Leinster, "	-	26,928 "
Munster, "	-	25,404 "
Connaught, "	-	16,607 "
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In all Ireland, "	-	105,119 "

in grass lands in excess of 1869. A portion of this is temporarily under grass, but the magnitude of this area leads to the inference that the bulk of this land is intended to remain in permanent pasture. This should forcibly point to the necessity there is, independent of other advantages, to encourage the growth of flax in those provinces, where it now occupies so small a space as compared with Ulster.

The Registrar-General's return of Scutch mills in Ireland in 1868 and 1869 was :—

	1868.	1869.
In Ulster, - - -	1,420	1,392
Munster, - - -	47	41
Leinster, - - -	41	46
Connaught, - - -	34	32

It is difficult to account for the variation in the number of Scutch Mills in each province, but in Munster the cause of the reduction is known to arise from the removal of the machinery from Mills in districts where flax culture had died out, or had failed to take root. In the districts where flax culture is progressing there is a marked increase in the number of stocks that existed some years since.

This concludes the necessary statistical statements in reference to the condition of flax culture in Ireland in the year 1870.

The returns which have been received from the Board of Trade of the acreage under flax in England, Scotland, and Wales, in 1869 and 1870, are as follow :—

	1869. acres.	1870. acres.	Increase. acres.	
In England, -	19,483	22,354	2,871	14·73 per cent.
Scotland, -	1,306	1,399	93	7·12 “
Wales, -	134	204	130	97·01 “

It was intended to procure more comprehensive statistics relative to the culture of flax on the Continent, but the war breaking out prevented any attempt being made to gain this information.

The routine of the work done, under the guidance of the Council, in prosecuting the extension of the growth and the improvement in the management of flax in Ireland has been very much the same as was adopted during the preceding year; more attention has been paid to the latter and important department than formerly, and Ulster, which hitherto was comparatively neglected has had much care bestowed upon it.

Early in the month of May your Secretary made a tour in the South and West of Ireland, principally with the object of visiting localities where representations had been made that the increase in the culture of flax required an increase in the scutching accommodation. Among the places visited were New Ross, Co.,

Wexford, Fermoy, Mallow, Cork, Dunmanway, Brookville (near Leap), Kilkeel (near Bantry), in the County Cork, Castlebar and Ballyvary, in the County Mayo. The most promising district visited was Fermoy and its vicinity, and preliminary arrangements were made that led to applications for grants which were sanctioned by the Council; the increased accommodation will doubtless encourage a larger area to be devoted to the flax crop next season. In some instances the arrangements were frustrated in consequence of those desirous to engage in the enterprize, being unable to bring their negotiations for sites for the proposed mills to a successful issue, some of these applications for assistance will probably be renewed next season, and it is hoped that the funds at the disposal of the Council of the Association will enable this fundamental and important feature in flax promotion to be prosecuted with vigour.

In the month of August your Secretary also made a short tour in some of the flax growing districts in the Counties Donegal and Tyrone. The places visited were, Stranorlar, Donegal, Mount Charles, Letterkenny, Lifford and Strabane. In some districts in the County Donegal the flax crop is comparatively of recent introduction, and the culture and preparation of the fibre does not, as yet, receive that care which is so necessary to produce a remunerative crop, but as was observed in the bi-monthly report of September last "this is likely to be remedied, as the 'Farmers are becoming more willing to receive advice as to the 'management of their flax crop than formerly.'"

At the request of Mr. W. Steuart Trench, your Secretary attended the Bath Estate Agricultural Show in October, at Carrickmacross—prizes were awarded for scutched flax, and some superior samples were exhibited. The culture of flax is encouraged by Mr. Trench on the Bath Estate, which, if prosecuted with moderation, cannot fail to benefit the farmers in which the landlord will participate.

The essential matter of seed continues to receive the usual attention. The imported Riga seed of the growth of 1870, which will be available for next season's sowing, is beyond an average as

to quality, and the quantity, all kinds included, will probably be sufficient for a larger acreage than was sown last year; and owing to the very dry season an unusually large quantity of flaxseed has been saved in Ireland, a table showing the quantity of flaxseed imported into Ireland in the year 1864 to 1870, with average price each year is appended to this report.

The Munster monthly flax markets have taken place this season in October, November, December, and January. In consequence of the dry Autumn, the water mills could only dress a limited quantity of flax for the October market, and only one Northern Spinning Firm was represented, viz :—The Braid Water Spinning Company (Limited). In November, Messrs. Philip Johnston & Son, Messrs. John Savage & Co., the Braid Water Spinning Company (Limited), and Messrs. Malcolmson & Co., sent buyers. In December, Messrs. Philip Johnston & Sons, the Ligoniel Spinning Co., Messrs. John Savage & Co., and Messrs. Malcolmson & Co., were represented. In January, the buyers who attended the markets represented the Ligoniel Spinning Co., Messrs. Dunbar, M'Master & Co., the Northern Spinning and Weaving Co., (Limited), and Messrs. John Savage & Co. :—The supply at these markets this season was very much in excess of what was brought forward last season. In some instances, the prices given have not satisfied the farmers, although quite equal to, if not higher than the prices obtained by our Ulster farmers, and the yield per acre in Munster being fully $3\frac{1}{3}$ stones above that in Ulster should enable farmers in that province to produce remunerative crops of flax, even with moderate prices for the fibre :—Your Secretary attended the November markets, and met many large growers who expressed themselves so well satisfied with their experience, as to the profits of flax culture, that it was their determination to extend their operations.

The price which the farmer obtains for his flax depends on the quality of the fibre, and the quality depends on the handling of the crop by the grower and the dressing in the scutch-mill; and it is satisfactory to be able to state that the buyers who have attended the Southern markets this season report a marked im-

provement in the condition of the flax which has been brought forward, as compared with former years. The more care that is exercised by the farmers in the manipulation of the crop, and by the scutch-mill owners in its preparation for market, the greater will be the profits attending this branch of agriculture.

The farmers have the maintenance of these markets in their own hands, as buyers from the North will only be encouraged to attend if the supply is sustained by the farmers reserving their flax for sale in the open market, and not disposing of it at their homes or at the scutch-mills. Those who buy out of the markets usually seek to obtain the flax at a more moderate price than if sold where there is a competitive demand.

The flax prizes allotted by this Association, for mill and hand scutched flax, have been awarded in Connaught and Northern portions of Leinster. The names of the successful competitors appear in the adjudication of Flax Prizes, attached to this report.

The prizes allotted to Munster, and southern portions of Leinster, shall not be awarded till the month of February. The award has been delayed this season to a later period than last, in order to give all growers an opportunity to compete. These prizes are looked forward to in the several districts with much interest, and create a considerable degree of rivalry.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Council which was ratified at the last annual meeting; the meetings of Council have only been held each alternate month during the past year. The ordinary reports have been published; and early in this season these reports contained information, derived from special correspondents, as to the condition of the growing crops of flax, which were printed and circulated through the trade, and forwarded to England and Scotland. Many advantages arise from this system, and one may be mentioned, which is of considerable importance, viz :—The bringing this Association periodically into communication with flax growers, in all parts of Ireland.

The next, and one of the most useful departments of the labors of this Association, to which special allusion was made in last annual

report, is the correspondence which is daily expanding, and the constant flow of enquiry and response cannot fail to produce benefit to those engaged in flax culture, and during the past year a much more extensive intercourse has been cultivated with growers and those interested in flax, in the province of Ulster, which it is confidently expected, will be attended with good results.

The Council has devoted its usual attention to the consideration of the applications which have been made for loans, to assist in increasing scutching accommodations, in districts where the growth of flax warrants such grants. It would be superfluous to enlarge on the importance and necessity of providing those willing to cultivate flax, with the means of having it prepared for market; and in making these loans, great care has been exercised with regard to the stability of those to whom aid has been given, in corroboration of which it may be mentioned, that the instalments of the loans, which have matured up to the termination of the year 1870, have all been punctually paid.

Applications have been received from the South and West of Ireland for Northern scutchers, and experienced hands have been sent to various districts, and have given satisfaction to those for whom they were engaged.

During the past Summer a portable scutching machine, worked by hand-power has been received from Belgium; from this model others have been constructed. These machines have not as yet been tested comparatively with the ordinary mills, but so far as trials of their efficiency have been made, they give great promise of cleaning well prepared flax admirably; and one great advantage, less waste occurs than with the ordinary stock; but with horse or steam power these machines would be more effective. A hand flax breaker has also been received from Belgium, which from the simplicity of its construction and its inexpensiveness would likely be a valuable auxiliary, in districts where hand scutching prevails, and obviate the necessity of the excessive fire drying, which is so extensively and so perniciously practised at present.

A table of the analysis of waters used for retting flax is appended

to this report, and it may be observed that those specimens which are reported as issuing from granite and trap formations are of a peculiarly soft nature, and consequently most suitable for retting flax.

It is too early to speculate on the prospect of next season's sowing of flax in Ireland, but it is desired to direct the attention of farmers to the relative exports of flaxseed which have taken place from Riga in the years 1869 and 1870. In 1869, 261,191 brls. of seed were shipped from Riga, of which, 60,070 came to Ireland. Up to the closing of the navigation this season only about 159,900 brls. had left Riga, of which, 78,794 brls. were for Ireland—this shows in all a decrease of 101,291 brls., and this deficiency has been to the continent of Europe. In Ireland, we have an excess of upwards of nearly 19,000 brls. this year as compared with last, which will tend to keep the price moderate. France took last year 34,304 brls.—this year 2,378 are recorded as having been shipped to that country. In last annual report the estimated acreage devoted each year to flax in France, was stated to be 105,455 *Hectares* or about 263,637 statute acres—this information was received direct from His Excellency, the British Ambassador at Paris. Owing to the calamitous war at present raging in that country, this area is likely to be very much diminished next season. These are facts which it would be well our Irish farmers should consider when allotting their farms to the several crops they intend to cultivate in the coming season.

Referring to the statement of the accounts of this Association for the year ending 31st December, 1870, the Council desire to call special attention to the system that is adopted in collecting the subscriptions. In prosecuting any enterprise depending on voluntary aid, it is imperative that those who have the guidance of the operations, necessary to promote the end in view, should know what funds shall be available to carry on such operations in the future. This applies to the Flax Extension Association : therefore, the receipts of each expiring year are what are applicable for the expenditure of the succeeding year. In fact, unless such a course were adopted, it would be impossible for the

Council to allot the necessary funds to each special department, and to provide for the current expenditure of the Association. It has been urged by some that to exhibit an exhausted exchequer would induce contributions, but to adopt such a course would cripple the Council and prevent its prudent and legitimate action. This explanation will account for the balance which appears in the hands of the Treasurer at the termination of each year, and should do away with the idea which some entertain that this balance indicates a surplus of funds at the disposal of the Council.

The operations of this Association do not appear as prominently before the public as could be desired—they are in a great measure silent; but at the same time steady and persevering, and any assertion as to its usefulness emanating from the acting body, would naturally, not be so convincing as testimony derived from those who locally have an opportunity of judging of the results of its efforts, and, with a view of obtaining such testimony, a query to the following purport was addressed by your Secretary, to persons in districts in Ireland, where flax is cultivated, and who are directly or indirectly interested in the industry of flax culture, viz:—

“ Would you kindly favour me with a few lines expressive of your opinion as to the utility of this Association, and please mention, if you consider its operations are calculated to benefit the cultivators of flax ? ”

In appendix, No. 1, will be found extracts from letters in reply to this query, which, unless their sincerity is questioned, testify that the Association is doing a work which must eventually benefit the linen industry of Ulster, also the farmers and peasantry of Ireland. Such testimony should induce support from those engaged in all departments of the linen trade. The manufacturers of linen, and traders in the manufactured fabrics are equally interested in the production of the raw material, as the Spinners on whom this Association has hitherto chiefly depended for its maintenance.

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, said—I rise to move the adoption of the report which you have just heard read, and I hope you will on the whole consider that it is satisfactory. I have little doubt but that you will consider that it is satisfactory so far as regards the efficient performance of the duties undertaken by this Association. The replies received to the queries sent to the different districts prove that in the opinion of those best qualified to judge the advantages that have resulted from the operations of the Society have been undoubted. But with respect to the actual results as developed in the crop of the last season, 1870, the satisfaction will not, perhaps, be in all respects so complete as it was when a year ago we received the results of the crop of 1869. Last year we had the pleasure to announce that not only had the diminution in the area under flax, which had gone on progressing since the monster crop of 1864 been arrested, but that there had been an increase of 23,000 acres in the whole of Ireland; and what was especially gratifying, that there had been a very large increase in the growth of flax in those new districts in which we have been most desirous to establish it—say an increase of more than one-third in Munster, and nearly a half in Connaught. This year, on the contrary, we have to record a diminution in the acreage under flax in Ulster, of 30,000 acres, and a loss in Connaught of all that had been gained in the previous year. In Munster there has been an increase of 400 acres; but in Leinster, which was the previous year stationary, there has been a decrease of 1,000 acres. I must say I consider these results, so far as our three sister provinces are concerned, as not encouraging. We had every reason to hope that the suitability of their soil and climate having been proved by practical experience, and the renumerative character of the crop, its cultivation would have extended rapidly. Requiring, as it does, in every stage, a larger amount of labour, and partaking in some of its processes of the characteristics of a manufacture, although of a rudimentary and simple kind, it seemed especially adapted to those parts of Ireland which, although possessing a fertile soil, suffer from a want of adequate employment. The slight success that as yet attends our efforts proves how exceedingly difficult it is to introduce any industry into a new district. On the other hand, it is very gratifying to learn that with 34,000 acres less land under flax than the previous year, there has been produced an equal weight of fibre, and that the large increase in the total produce shown last year of 11,000 tons has been sustained. We have, in fact, returned at last to what we may perhaps call the normal average of thirty stones to the acre, from which

we had fallen in the five bad years since 1864. I ventured last year to express a strong hope that we had passed through a cycle of bad seasons, and were entering on a cycle of good ones. The very satisfactory yield of the last season's crop in Ulster is also especially encouraging, as tending to dispel the fear that the very dispiriting and yearly-declining yield of the four years, from 1865 to 1868, had naturally engendered, that the proportion in flax of one-tenth of the total area under crop in Ulster was too large to be permanently sustained. It is quite clear that what I suggested last year as probable is absolutely true, and that the variations in the annual yield of the flax crops are the result of the variations in the seasons. Everything seems to depend on a happy alternative of sunshine and shower happening to occur at fortunate periods of the crop's growth. The weather last Summer seems to have been all that could have been desired, except that it was too hot and dry during the time that the flax was undergoing its final process on the grass—but for this we might have rivalled the yield per acre of 1864. Should such hot weather occur again at the same period, we hope the farmers will be more careful to avoid allowing their flax to remain so long exposed to the rays of a scorching sun. Probably, owing to this same cause, the quality of the last crop has not been quite so good as might have been expected from the otherwise favourable character of the season, nor so good as is usually the case when the yield is so satisfactory. For this reason the price has not reached a high average. Other causes, which are exceptional, have assisted in keeping prices low. One, no doubt, has been the war on the Continent, which, however, has acted much more strongly on the prices of cotton and of wool than it has done upon flax. Another has been the unprecedentedly large crop of 1869 in Russia, which was also a crop of good quality, and which reached this country last Summer. But the causes that appear likely to influence prices next Summer all seem to tend in an opposite direction. We may hope that the disastrous war has at last reached its termination. If so, not only will there be a void to be filled up there when industry is resumed, but there is every reason to believe that next season's growth of flax will be there seriously curtailed. In the first place, there is the interruption to the ordinary cultivation, the seat of war in the North of France having been in the midst of the chief flax-growing districts. Next, the waste and scarcity of food will probably lead to grain and other food crops being substituted, as far as possible, for everything else. And lastly, there will be the difficulty of now procuring

flaxseed, the usual supplies of which were not forwarded from Russia before the close of the navigation. Indeed, such has been the disturbing influence of the war that instead of the usual shipment of 200,000 barrels of flaxseed to the whole Continent of Europe, Russia this year, up to the close of the navigation, had only shipped about 80,000 barrels. The importance of the French flax crop will be seen from the report, in which it is stated that the average acreage in France is over 263,000 acres, or one-third more than that of Ireland, and twice as much as the whole of Holland and Belgium put together. Fortunately, our supply of seed from Russia has this year been ample—one-third more than last year. With such prospects for the future demand, and with the encouragement afforded by the large yield of the crop last year, it will, we hope, be all sown. No doubt, the great field for the extension of the growth in Ireland must be looked for in the other three provinces. The proportion of their land under crop as yet devoted to flax is utterly insignificant, varying from about one-quarter to three-quarters per cent. In fact, the entire yield of last crop in Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, would not supply the consumption of one of our first-class mills in Belfast. I do not see that this Society can do more with the means at its command to improve this state of affairs than it has done. The report shows that information has been disseminated, scutch-mills have been supplied, markets well attended by buyers, and it is satisfactory to learn that the advances made to assist in the erection of scutch-mills have in all cases been punctually repaid: that the prizes annually awarded in the different districts are looked forward to with much interest, and are found an effective stimulant. If, by perseverance in their efforts, this Society shall ultimately succeed in establishing the cultivation of flax in the South and West of Ireland, they will have attained a work not only of local but of national advantage. I will now say, in conclusion, that the abundance of the supply of flax during the past season has materially divested the labours of this Society of some of that interest that attached to them when two years ago the produce of the Irish flax crop had fallen to 25,000 tons. But the linen trade has attained a vigour and vitality unknown to it before the introduction of power-looms. The consumption of flax is this year likely to be increased; the production of it on the Continent will certainly be diminished; and it would be unwise to relax in our efforts to extend and improve the cultivation of a crop which in the various processes of its growth and manufacture is the source of so much of the prosperity of the North of Ireland. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JAMES HIND, in seconding the report, said the President had entered so fully into all the matters connected with it that there was very little left for him to say. There was just one point to which he wished to refer. From his experience, both in the markets in this neighbourhood and the adjoining counties, he found that flax was a great deal better scutched last year than usual. If the flax of the previous year had been as well cleaned as last year there would have a greater difference in the yield. There was no doubt there was a considerable improvement going on in the cleaning of flax; and he thought that the dry weather at the commencement of the grassing season, though it had the tendency to make the flax harsh and dry, was one of the principal reasons which got it well cleaned. He had very great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. J. W. M MASTER, J.P., moved that Mr. John Mulholland, J.P., be President of the Association for the ensuing year. He thought they would all agree with him that the Association was excessively fortunate in having a gentleman so intimately connected with the trade as Mr. Mulholland was at their head—a gentleman who possessed a universal knowledge in connection with it, and who possessed such rare talents. (Applause.) He was sure the resolution did not require one word from him to recommend it to the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. W. S. MITCHELL had great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The motion was passed amid warm applause.

Mr. MULHOLLAND said he was very much obliged for the confidence reposed in him in electing him again as their President. There were many gentlemen in the room who had a much greater claim to the office, and who would discharge its duties much more efficiently than he, and he thought the Association would be acting wisely in asking them to accept the office. (No, no.) Well, if it was their wish that he should be appointed he had great pleasure in accepting the office. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN OULTON moved the appointment of a Council, with Mr. J. W. M'Master and Mr. John G. Richardson as Vice-Presidents.

Mr. J. W. VALENTINE seconded the motion, which was passed.

Mr. CHARLES W. SHAW moved that a sum of money, not exceeding £200, be allotted as prizes for scutched flax, to be appropriated as the Council may direct.

Mr. JAMES MONTGOMERY seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Mr. CHARLES BOWLES moved that the best thanks of this Association be given to the local and provincial Press for inserting matters connected with the Association.

Mr. JAMES ANDREWS, in seconding the resolution, said the Press had enabled the Association to extend the knowledge which it wished to impart much more widely than they could otherwise do. The proceedings of the Association had been made known far and wide by the newspapers of the province, and, but for the publicity thus given, the Association could not succeed in disseminating, as it would desire, information among those for whose benefit it had been originated. They should, therefore, feel much obliged to the Press for inserting notices of their meetings.

The PRESIDENT, in putting the resolution, said the object of the Association was to scatter information regarding the culture and manipulation of flax throughout the country, and it was manifest without such an auxiliary as the Press they would be unable to carry out the object effectually. He had the greatest pleasure in putting the resolution to the meeting.

The resolution was passed.

Mr. ROBERT L. HAMILTON moved that the best thanks of the meeting be given to their active and efficient Secretary, Mr. Michael Andrews, for his attention to the interests of the Association in every particular, since he entered on the office. He felt that Mr. Andrews deserved this—(hear, hear,)—and that they would be only doing justice to themselves in passing it at the Annual Meeting of the Association. (Hear, hear.) Any one who understood the onerous duties that devolved on the Secretary of such an Association as this, and how difficult it was to please all parties, and to carry on efforts in all parts of the country for the purpose of promoting the object of the Association, and was aware how well Mr. Andrews accomplished this, would acknowledge the propriety of this resolution. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He had great pleasure in moving the resolution.

Mr. ROBERT PORTER seconded the motion.

The PRESIDENT, in putting the resolution said, he had very great pleasure indeed in submitting it to the meeting. He had been brought personally into contact with Mr. Andrews, and he could testify to the extreme assiduity manifested by him, and his earnest desire to promote the objects of the Association. (Hear, hear.) The Society was altogether dependent for its success on the Secretary—(hear)—and he felt confident that it would be difficult to find a gentleman who would discharge the duties of the office as satisfactorily in every way as Mr. Andrews. (Applause.)

The resolution was passed amid warm applause.

Mr. ANDREWS expressed his acknowledgments, and in doing so said he felt greatly obliged for their expression of satisfaction with the manner in which he had conducted the business of the Association. He considered that having undertaken a task it was an imperative duty to fulfil it.

Mr. J. W. M'MASTER, J.P., having been called to the second chair.

Mr. JOHN SAVAGE, J.P., moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Mulholland for the interest he had ever exhibited in the affairs of the Association. Meeting as they did to-day under the auspices of a name so familiar in Belfast, and so long and so intimately identified with the staple trade of the North, he thought that few words would be required to commend the resolution to the meeting. (Hear, hear.) They had the honour and felt the importance of having a gentleman, as had been well expressed, of rare ability who, he hoped, would before long find a wider field to exercise his influence and ability. (Applause.) It was gratifying that although retired from the trade Mr. Mulholland was still willing to devote his attention to the furthering of the objects of this Association. (Applause.)

Mr. THOMAS VALENTINE, J.P., had very great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was passed amid applause.

Mr. M'MASTER, in conveying to Mr. Mulholland the vote of thanks, said it afforded him very great pleasure to convey the hearty thanks of the meeting for the efficient and highly influential aid he rendered the Association. (Applause.)

Mr. MULHOLLAND said he was exceedingly obliged for the kindly feelings that had been expressed towards him, and especially to the proposer and seconder of the resolution, for the terms in which they had alluded to him. (Hear, hear.) It was certainly very gratifying to him to find that he still retained their friendship. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.

At the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Flax Extension Association, held in the Chamber of Commerce, Belfast, on Tuesday, 31st January, 1871, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

JOHN MULHOLLAND, Esq., J.P., D.L., President, in the Chair.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Andrews) having read the Report, it was Moved by the CHAIRMAN; seconded by JAMES HIND, Esq., and resolved—

“That the Report which has been read be adopted, printed, and circulated without delay.”

Moved by J. W. M'MASTER, Esq.; seconded by WM. S. MITCHELL, Esq., and resolved—

“That John Mulholland, Esq., be President of this Association for the year 1871.”

Moved by JOHN OULTON, Esq.; seconded by J. W. VALENTINE, Esq., and resolved—

“That the following gentlemen shall constitute the Council of this Association for the year 1871 ”:—

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

John W. M'Master, Esq., and John G. Richardson, Esq.,

COUNCIL.

James Andrews.
John D. Barbour.
John Beck.
Charles Bowles.
John K. Boyd.
Ynyr H. Burges.
James Carlisle.
William Charley.
Foster Connor.
James Dickson.
Charles Duffin.
Wm. Ewart, jun.

C. Finlayson.
Robert L. Hamilton.
James Hind.
Philip Johnston.
Wm. M. Kirk.
John Love.
John Lowry.
Samuel Martin.
Wm. S. Mitchell.
James Montgomery.
Wm. Moreland.
Charles Murland.
Finlay M'Cance.

Henry M'Tier.
John Oulton.
Robert Porter.
John Preston.
J. N. Richardson, jun.
John Savage.
Charles W. Shaw.
James Taylor.
Robert Thompson.
Thomas Valentine.
A. C. Weir.
John Young.

Moved by C. W. SHAW, Esq.; seconded by JAMES MONTGOMERY, Esq., and resolved—

“That a sum of money, not exceeding Two Hundred Pounds sterling, be allotted as Prizes for Scutched Flax, to be appropriated as the Council may direct.”

Moved by CHARLES BOWLES, Esq.; seconded by JAMES ANDREWS, Esq., and resolved—

“That the best thanks of this Association be given to the Local and Provincial Press for their courtesy in inserting matters connected with the Association.”

Moved by ROBERT L. HAMILTON, Esq.; seconded by ROBERT PORTER, Esq., and resolved—

“That the best thanks of the Association be given to the Secretary for the zeal and ability with which he discharged his duties during the year.”

JOHN MULHOLLAND, Chairman.

MICHAEL ANDREWS, Secretary.

Mr. Mulholland having left the chair, and Mr. M'Master having been called thereto, it was

Moved by JOHN SAVAGE, Esq.; seconded by THOMAS VALENTINE, Esq., and resolved—

“That the thanks of the Meeting be given to John Mulholland, Esq., for his kindness in presiding, and the great interest he has always taken in the affairs of the Association.”

JOHN W. M'MASTER, Chairman.

MICHAEL ANDREWS, Secretary.

A P P E N D I X.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING QUERY:—

“Would you kindly favour me with a few lines expressive
“of your opinion as to the utility of this Association; and
“please mention if you consider its operations calculated to
“benefit the cultivators of Flax.”?

*From correspondent, dated
Tulla, County Clare, 2nd
November, 1879.* } “Your Association at Belfast cannot
fail to be of value in its steady and per-
severing encouragement of the crop in
the localities best suited for it; and through the medium of your prizes
and clear instructions for its cultivation much good has undoubtedly
been done in making the farmers sensible of the value of the crop, in its
rotation, as part of a system.”

*From correspondent, dated
Castleblaney, County Mon-
aghan, 3rd November, 1870.* } “The Linen Manufacture is of the
greatest importance to Ireland—it is
now of world-wide celebrity. In its
prosperity the farmers of Ireland participate; and those parts of Ireland
where Flax is grown, find it is equal in profit to the best soils growing
wheat. To extend its legitimate growth is, in any society, a praiseworthy
and very patriotic object. The Society you represent has that object,
and has done very much to effect it, by giving premiums, by assisting to
build scutch mills, and by the circulation of Pamphlets containing the
very best information on its growth, the preparation of the soil, and its
after manipulation. Your last work is exhaustive on the subject. I
believe there are soils in all parts of Ireland suitable for the growth of
Flax, and if the benefit in a money point of view was known, a great
increase in its growth would take place. Your Society is highly National—
of more real utility in its results than any political matter on which,
unfortunately, my countrymen so much rely for improvement in their
circumstances.”

*From correspondent, dated
Ritchhill, County Armagh,
9th November, 1870.* } “Your Society has been of use in pro-

pagating the growth of Flax more in the South of Ireland than about this, and the instructions set forth by the Society must have been very useful to people unacquainted with its growth, even here I know several parties who were anxious to study them and to follow them. I would be slow in saying that the Society has not been of use, as I conscientiously believe the contrary.”

*From correspondent, dated
Rathfriland, County Down,
10th November, 1870.* } “Without any hesitation I pronounced

at once in favour of the Flax Extension Association for many reasons—one in particular is, it being a medium for information in many departments of Flax growing and a source from which assistance in Machinery can be obtained—most undoubtedly, like all things of the kind, it must work its way. The information and instruction which you have given is creating more attention and making farmers more careful in one particular department, viz. :—Flax steeping and selection of water for it.”

*From correspondent, dated
Manorcunningham, County
Donegal, 23rd Nov., 1870.* } “I believe your Society is doing a great

deal of good, and, that your system of directing the attention of farmers, &c., to seed, sowing, weeding, watering, &c., as the different operations turn up, is calculated to do a great deal of good, I have derived great benefit from your instructions myself.”

*From correspondent, dated
Dundalk, County Louth,
25th November, 1870.* } “I have every confidence in the utility

of your Association, and I consider the trade generally should support it by contributing to its funds. Your instructions on Flax culture has given the farmers confidence in their own judgment, and on these grounds I am convinced that your valuable operations are calculated to benefit Flax cultivation.”

From correspondent, dated Mountmellick, Queen's Co., 25th November, 1870. } “Were it not for the assistance given by the Society, through you, I fear we should have given up the growth of Flax ere this. It is extraordinary how hard it is to get the farmers to grow it, and when they do, to manage it properly.”

From correspondent, dated Cork, 25th November, 1870. } “I feel confident that, now as the Land Question is settled, the labors of the Association will be attended with the best possible results.”

From Correspondent dated Shinrone, King's County, 26th November, 1870. } “I consider that the Flax Extension Association has done a great deal of good, not only in extending the growth of Flax but in inducing flax-growers to use more care and skill in the cultivation and handling of the crop, and also in establishing markets in the South.

From correspondent, dated Clonakilty, County Cork, 26th November, 1870. } “I think the growing of Flax in this neighbourhood is very much the fruits of your labour. I may say you have provided the farmers with mills and a market. Most of the mills were built at your suggestion—many of them with your assistance, while all mill owners desiring first-class hands were supplied with the best workmen through you. The monthly market at Ballineen has given a great stimulus to the growth of Flax.”

From correspondent, dated Skibbereen, County Cork, 26th November, 1870. } “I am happy to be able to say that the Flax Extension Association has been of incalculable usefulness to the growers of Flax in this district, and it has been the principal means of promoting and developing the growth of Flax here. In proof that its cultivation has now been fairly established in the West of this county, a steam mill has been lately erected in Skibbereen, so that any deficiency or inconvenience in scutching, hitherto felt, has been removed. Your Association, by its information circulated and prizes given, has been the means of keeping the matter of the cultivation of Flax steadily before the public, and the growers in this district that I have spoken to on the

subject, were only too anxious to acknowledge the benefits conferred by the Association. I can assure you that the efforts made from time to time by the Society to encourage the growth of Flax, together with the valuable instructions imparted by it, are, in this large district, fully appreciated."

*From correspondent, dated
Portland, Co. Tipperary,
26th November, 1870.* } "I beg to thank you for the information and many useful suggestions I have received respecting the sowing and after management of the Flax crop. I would not have ventured to have sown so much of it but for your advice and assistance, and I am convinced that even with our imperfect knowledge of the management of the crop and the difficulty of getting it scutched, it is well worth our attention as a remunerative crop. I have let two farms to County Down farmers this autumn, and have no doubt but, that their skill and experience will induce many of the small farmers to cultivate it about me."

*From correspondent, dated
Bandon, County Cork, 26th
November, 1870.* } "I am glad of an opportunity of expressing how valuable I think the exertions of the Belfast Flax Extension Association are in extending the cultivation of Flax, and how useful the papers are which have been sent from time to time."

*From correspondent, dated
Clonakilty, County Cork,
26th November, 1870.* } "I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the benefit the South of Ireland has received through your Society relative to the growth of Flax, not only from the pecuniary aid granted towards the erection of scutch mills, without which, I believe many would not have been erected; and also from the valuable practical instructions given to growers of Flax relative to its manipulation in all its stages which has, I believe, acted as a great stimulus towards its extended growth in districts where its culture was but very imperfectly understood."

*From correspondent, dated
Kilkeel, County Down, 30th
November, 1870.* } “I consider the operations of the Flax
Extension Association cannot fail to do
good service to the growers of Flax in
Ireland. I believe the information contained in the instructions for the
culture and preparation of the crop, which have appeared from time to
time, very valuable, and if properly acted upon, must benefit very much
all those engaged in its cultivation.”

*From correspondent, dated
Mallow, County Cork, 1st
December, 1870.* } “I believe that, had it not been for
the exertions of the Flax Extension
Association, we would scarcely have any
Flax grown in this quarter. The advantage of having Northern buyers
in the markets, which are now admirably arranged, enables farmers to
obtain a fair price for their Flax. The encouragement of the premiums
which the Association send so liberally here, is a great means to stimulate
the farmers.”

*From correspondent, dated
Ballina, County Mayo, 1st
December, 1870.* } “Having taken a deep interest in
the cultivation of Flax in this county, I
can bear testimony to the impetus given it
by the operations of your Society. It would be a pity if your operations
should become contracted either by want of funds or other causes.”

*From correspondent, dated
Crossmolina, County Mayo,
3rd December, 1870.* } “There is no doubt whatever that the
Flax Extension Association has been
of very great utility in the district with
which I am best acquainted, and, that its operations have benefited in
many ways the cultivators of Flax, by encouraging its growth, assisting
in the erection of scutch mills, and giving prizes to meet almost all
classes of growers.”

*From correspondent, dated
Mountcharles, Co. Donegal,
3rd December, 1870.* } “I have not the least hesitation in
saying that the Flax Extension Associ-
ation has been of benefit to the flax-
growers in this locality where the crop is comparatively a new one and
the people unskilled in the working of it. The information conveyed in

your instructions and circulars have been of material use and have been acted upon to a greater extent than I could have anticipated. Unless some unforeseen cause should arise before spring, I expect the sowing in this immediate neighbourhood will be considerably increased next year, as even with the low prices now ruling, it is the best paying crop the farmers hereabout have."

*From correspondent dated
New Ross, County Wexford
5th December, 1870.* } "I have to thank you for your varied
information and repeated kindness at all
times, in giving me the best instruction
for the cultivation of Flax in telling me the best sort of seed to buy, as
well as how to dispose of Flax to best advantage."

I can truly say that your Association has been of the greatest utility to the cultivation of Flax in this district, in fact, I don't know what we should do now were it not for you.

*From Correspondent, dated
Dungannon, County Tyrone,
6th December, 1870.* } "I certainly consider the Flax Associ-
ation a useful one, otherwise I would not
subscribe to it. I have no doubt but
that the information disseminated by the Association is more or less
attended to by the Farmers, especially in the South and West of Ireland.
I consider the statistics as to yield per acre, &c., collected by the Associ-
ation as very useful to the trade, knowing as I do, that they are generally
very near the mark."

*From Correspondent, dated
Rosscarbery, County Cork,
6th December, 1870.* } "If your Society will continue to en-
courage buyers to come to our markets
and send instructions for distribution
amongst the growers, I expect it will be the means of encouraging the
growth of Flax in this County. Those Farmers who have got the in-
structions issued by the Society I find their Flax the best managed."

*From Correspondent, dated
Skibbereen, County Cork,
9th December, 1870.* } "I attribute the increasing growth of
Flax in this County in a great measure
to the steady Co-operation of the Flax
Extension Association with Mill owners, Farmers and Gentlemen in the
South, and the interest evinced on all occasions in the extension of the
culture of Flax, the exertions made for the improvement of its preparation
for supporting markets, and the zealous assistance afforded by them and
their Secretary. There are now thirteen Flax Mills, all at full work,

West of Bandon, whereas a few years since there were not I think two. I must not omit adverting to the effective and untiring exertions of Lord Bandon and his brother, the Hon. Col. Bernard in advocating and encouraging the growth of Flax in this County."

*From Correspondent, dated
Castlebar, County Mayo,
10th December, 1870.*

} "I must say in justice to your Association that it has done a good deal to promote the growth of Flax, and to increase the Scutching machinery, &c. Many would remain undecided but for the efforts you have made, and the circulation of instructions and circulars turn Farmers attention to the subject, and causes them to enquire further. As this has been rather a critical season, there would have been a more decided falling off in the culture of Flax here in the west, but for the way matters were kept alive, and numbers who were wavering and undecided came to the conclusion to sow Flax for the first time, and others who were rather disappointed in the results of last season's trial were induced to try again. Still a great deal remains to be done, and I hope you will continue to urge on the subject until a more decided impulse and general movement takes place—there is plenty of room to do it, but hundreds of people are thankful for the knowledge they have now, and from the assistance in becoming acquainted with the advantage to be derived from the proper system of culture, and which sadly wanted some impulse to set forth a proper tone. I feel your Association tends to promote this much to be desired measure."

*From Correspondent, dated
Comber, Co. Down, 10th
December, 1870.*

} "I think the printed instructions issued by the Society as to the growth and management of the Flax crop very sound and practical, and likely to be of much service, especially to Farmers who have not had much experience in the management of Flax. The great and most important work open to the Society, not only for the benefit of the Linen trade, but for the general prosperity of Ireland lies in aiding and encouraging the growth of Flax in the South. If a good and successful, though even a very small beginning can be made in several districts in the South, the cultivation of the crop will extend and the management will gradually improve. I need scarcely say that the information given by the Association to the trade as to the progress of the growing crops of Flax and probable acreage under the crop at an early period of the year is both interesting and useful."

*From correspondent, dated
Dunmanway, County Cork,
10th December, 1870.* } “I don’t think there can be a second
opinion as to the utility of the Flax
Extension Association, and if it were
not for the exertions of that body in procuring buyers for the markets,
and the assistance to scutch mill owners, there would not be a fourth part
of the present crop of Flax grown in the County Cork, and even now, if
their exertions cease in these respects, the quantity will again decrease
to its former proportion.”

*From correspondent, dated
Leap, County Cork, 10th
December, 1870.* } “The average yield this season from
properly managed Flax is, in my opinion,
very fair, and, at from 8s. to 8s. 6d. per
stone would pay the grower better than any other crop. Flax culture
is steadily advancing in this part of the county, and I am quite sure the
labor and capital expended by the Flax Extension Association have done
much to encourage it.”

*From correspondent, dated
Fermoy, County Cork, 14th
December, 1870.* } “In every department of its operations,
your Society has been of the greatest
advantage to us in the South—indeed
in some respects essential to the nurturing of Flax culture through the
difficulties it has had to encounter here. The information diffused and
assistance given, have done much to stimulate that increased production
of Flax which has taken place in this district. One of the great difficul-
ties has hitherto been, the want of scutching machinery, and if we are
still under inconvenience in this respect, it cannot be laid to your account,
for it is only due to your Association to say, that aid has most freely and
generously been given in every case in which there was an opportunity
of making it available—and you, as the Secretary, have been most un-
wavering in the endeavour to urge on local parties to have that want
supplied. Not less important has been the advantage from the compe-
tition of an accessible market attended by Northern buyers and en-
couraged by your prizes.”

*From correspondent, dated
Sligo, 24th December, 1870.* } “I take this opportunity of thanking
you for your kind advice and valuable
assistance in my Flax business, and have no doubt your Association is
doing a great deal of good and will be the means of extending the growth
of Flax in this district. The farmers to whom I have given your in-
structions all say, they will sow next season, and would wish you would
send me a few more to distribute.”

From correspondent, dated Killala, County Mayo, 27th December, 1870. } “I have much pleasure in expressing my opinion of the utility of the Flax Extension Association of Belfast, and of the advantages which the cultivators of the crop in this district have derived from its operations. The issue gratis, by the Association, of the simple but comprehensive pamphlet, entitled—‘Instructions for the culture and preparation of Flax in Ireland’ has been the means of causing farmers, who have been in the habit of growing Flax for years, to be much more careful of the crop in all its several stages than formerly, and together with the annual distribution of prizes, which have been given by the Association in Flax growing districts, has induced many others to cultivate the crop who never had done so before—an example which I expect to see very generally followed next season.”

APPENDIX No. 2.

COPY OF CIRCULAR ALLUDED TO IN REPORT.

FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.

TO FLAX GROWERS.

FLAX Pulling having commenced, it is considered desirable to direct the attention of farmers to the important operation of Retting. This process is, in Ireland, too frequently not carried far enough.

Water well and leave little more than drying necessary on the grass, that is—don't remove the Flax from the dam till the fibre separates easily from the shove. By adhering to this suggestion the result will be a better yield of superior fibre, which will sell at a higher price.

A prevalent, but very mistaken, idea exists that “hard” Flax will yield better at the mill—the reverse is the case—properly handled Flax will require less scutching, but the very heavy scutching which is required to clean under-watered Flax reduces to tow much of what otherwise would remain Flax.

MICHAEL ANDREWS, JUN.,
Secretary.

10, DONEGALL SQUARE WEST,
BELFAST, 22nd July, 1870.

FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS FOR THE YEAR 1870.

Arrears, ...	...	...	...	...	£30	0	0
William Anderson, (Ballymena),	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
James Andrews & Sons, (Comber),	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
John Andrews & Co., do	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
R..J. Adams, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Sir Alex. Shafto Adair, Bart.,	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Blackstaff Spinning Co., (Limited),	...	...	...	...	18	7	3
Richard Bell & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Bessbrook Spinning Co., ...	...	...	...	...	55	16	8
Braid Water Spinning Co., (Limited),	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
George Benson, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Samuel Black, (Randalstown),	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Honourable Colonel Bernard, (Bandon),	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
A. Cotton, (Cork), ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Henry Campbell & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	19	3	10
James Coombe & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Thomas Cousins & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Robert Dempster, (Newry),	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Dunbar, M'Master & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	31	5	0
Darbishire, Brothers,	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Edenderry Spinning Co., (Limited),	...	...	...	...	53	19	0
William Ewart & Son, ...	...	...	...	...	40	0	0
Finlayson, Boursfield, & Co., (Glasgow),	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
Daniel Gailey, (Coleraine), ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Edward Gribben & Sons, do	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
George Gray & Sons, (Markethill),	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
John Hogg, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
W. D. Henderson, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Herdmans & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	31	5	0
Hupeden & Runge,...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
John Hind & Sons,...	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
Island Spinning Co., (Limited),	...	...	...	...	25	0	0
Philip Johnston & Sons, ...	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
Johnston, Stewart, & Co., ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
W. J. Jury, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
William M. Kirk & Co., (Keady),	...	...	...	...	19	1	5
Killyleagh Spinning Co., (Limited),	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
Ligoniel Spinning Co., ...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Joseph Lowry, ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0

Lowry, Valentine, & Kirk,	£25	0	0
Moore & Weinberg,... ..	5	0	0
MacAdam, Brothers,	1	1	0
John Martin & Co.,... ..	45	0	0
James Murland, (Castlewellan),	18	12	4
Thomas Montgomery, (Northern Bank),	1	1	0
S. Maze & Co.,	1	1	0
Milfort Spinning Co.,	51	2	4
Moreland, Brothers,	30	0	0
William Malcomson & Co.,	5	0	0
Mitchell, Brothers,	40	0	0
Thomas M'Clure, M.P.,	2	0	0
Samuel M'Causland,	1	1	0
Henry M'Tier & Co.,	2	2	0
Northern Spinning Co., (Limited),	57	18	0
Edward Wm. O'Brien, (Foynes),	1	1	0
John Oulton & Co.,... ..	5	0	0
Pim, Brothers,	1	1	0
John Preston & Co.,	5	0	0
R. Lloyd Patterson & Co.,	2	2	0
Richardson, Sons, & Owden,	25	0	0
Archibald Reynolds,	1	1	0
Richardson, Brothers, & Co.,... ..	25	0	0
W. A. Robinson,	1	1	0
William Renshaw & Co., (Limited),	30	0	0
William Ross & Co.,	30	0	0
James Smith, (Cookstown),	1	1	0
A. T. Stewart & Co.,	1	1	0
John Sharples & Sons, (Bolton),	10	0	0
William Spotten & Co.,	10	0	0
R. Stevenson, (Dungannon),... ..	1	1	0
John Savage & Co.,... ..	25	0	0
James Taylor & Sons, (Carrickfergus),... ..	10	0	0
Wolfhill Spinning Co.,	38	6	8
Weir, Boyle, & Co., (Dunmurry),	12	0	0
Whitehouse Spinning Co.,	10	0	0
York Street Spinning Co., (Limited),	62	10	0

£1,121 0 6

FLAX EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.—ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS TILL 31ST DECEMBER, 1870.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Balance from last account, ...	£928 6 11	By Advertising and Printing, ...	£96 5 11
“ Subscriptions received, ...	1,121 0 6	“ Travelling Expenses, ...	30 4 0
“ Instalments of Loans to Scotch Mills repaid, ...	179 0 0	“ Postage, Carriage, and Stationery, ...	48 6 8
		“ Office Expenses, ...	28 5 6
		“ Flax Implement Account, ...	8 16 7
		“ Salaries, ...	220 0 0
		“ Loans to Scotch Mills, granted during this year,*	388 0 0
		“ Flax Prizes, ...	171 5 0
		“ Balance in hand of Treasurer, £1,205 4 2	
		“ Do. Cash on hand, ...	31 19 7
			<u>1,237 3 9</u>
			<u>£2,228 7 5</u>

We certify that we have examined the Accounts and Vouchers of the Flax Extension Association up to the 31st December, 1870, showing a Balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £1,205 4s. 2d., and Cash on hand, £31 19s. 7d., and find the same correct,

BELFAST, 20th January, 1871.

WM. S. MITCHELL,
JAMES W. VALENTINE, } AUDITORS.

* The total amount, up to present date, of Loans to Scotch Mill Owners has been £946.

ADJUDICATION OF PRIZES

FOR

MILL SCUTCHED FLAX, IN THE YEAR 1870.

FIRST CLASS.

For Growers of not less than Three Statute Acres.

SECOND CLASS.

For Growers of not less than Half a Statute Acre and under Three Acres.

MARYBOROUGH.

Open for competition to Queen's County, King's County, and County Kildare.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	Thomas Rhodes,	...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	Hum. Smith,	...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	William Philips,	...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	M. Houlahan,	...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	James Troy,	...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	William Dunn,	...	...	1	0	0

WATERFORD.

Open for competition to Counties Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, and Tipperary, South of the Great Southern and Western Railway.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	Doctor Boyd,	...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	R. Blackmore,	...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	S. Morris,	...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	Col. Stewart,	...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	M. Kennedy,	...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	Earl of Bessborough,	...	...	1	0	0

The names of the successful competitors at Maryborough, Waterford, Ballineen, Cork, and Limerick, where the prizes were awarded in February, are inserted, as this portion of the Report was not printed till after the prizes were adjudged.

BALLINEEN.

Open for competition in the County Cork, South of line from Kinsale to Macroom, passing through Bandon.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	R. J. Tucker, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	Dennis Sweeny, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	Michael Mennis, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	James Cotter, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	John Becher, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	Rev. H. Townshend, ...	...	1	0	0

CORK.

Open for competition in the County Cork, North of line from Kinsale to Macroom, passing through Bandon.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	W. A. Clifton, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	Charles McKernan, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	George Bolster, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	John Lamb, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	Rev. Joseph Donaldson, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	John Coalmona, ...	...	1	0	0

LIMERICK.

Open for competition in the Counties Limerick, Kerry, Clare, and Tipperary, North of Great Southern and Western Railway.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	Marcus Malony, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	Michael Donohoe, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	Major Malony, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	William Boyd, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	John Walsh, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	Michael Kane, ...	...	1	0	0

LONGFORD.

Open for competition to Counties Longford and Westmeath.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	M. W. O'Connor, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	George Slevin, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	George Maybury, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	David Boyd, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	James Martin, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	Joseph Flood, ...	...	1	0	0

DUNDALK.

Open for competition to Counties Louth and Meath.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	Richard Bell, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	Francis Boyle, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	John Murphy, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	Thomas M'Dowell, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	John Boyle, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	James Doyle, ...	...	1	0	0

STROKESTOWN.

Open for competition to Counties Roscommon and Galway.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	Joseph Higgins, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	James Kilrea, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	Martin Kenny, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	John Banahar, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	Is. Dalton, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	James Carney, ...	...	1	0	0

MOHILL.

Open for competition to Counties Sligo and Leitrim.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	William Heaney, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	William Crowe, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	Henry Dobson, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	Patrick Mahon, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	Patrick Reynolds, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	Patrick Woods, ...	...	1	0	0

BALLINA.

Open for competition to County Mayo and adjoining districts of Sligo.

FIRST CLASS.

1st Prize,	George Carroll, ...	...	£5	0	0
2nd „	John Timblin, ...	...	3	0	0
3rd „	Matt Kilgallon, ...	...	1	10	0

SECOND CLASS.

1st Prize,	John Cowell, ...	...	£3	0	0
2nd „	William Watts, ...	...	1	10	0
3rd „	John Donnegan, ...	...	1	0	0

ADJUDICATION OF PRIZES

FOR

HAND SCUTCHED FLAX, IN THE YEAR 1870.

STROKESTOWN.

Open for competition to Surrounding Districts.

1st Prize, Catherine Egan,	...	...	£1	0	0
2nd " Edward Tiernan,	...	...	0	10	0
3rd " Stephen Dowd,...	...	...	0	5	0

LONGFORD.

Open for competition to Surrounding Districts.

1st Prize, ———Kiernans, ...	...	...	£1	0	0
2nd " (no competition,)...	...	...	0	10	0
3rd " ,, ...	...	...	0	5	0

MOHILL.

Open for competition to Surrounding Districts.

1st Prize, Thomas M'Cryans,	...	...	£1	0	0
2nd " Daniel Deignan,	...	...	0	10	0
3rd " John O'Hara, ...	...	...	0	5	0

CASTLEBAR.

Open for competition to Surrounding Districts.

1st Prize, Patrick Duffy,...	...	...	£1	0	0
2nd " Patrick Walsh, ..	...	...	0	10	0
3rd " Patrick M'Hule,	...	...	0	5	0

IMPORTS OF FLAXSEED INTO IRELAND FROM YEAR 1864 TO 1870, INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Riga Barrels. 3½ Bushels.	Dutch. Hhds. 7 Bushels.	American Hhds. 7 Bushels.	English Sacks. 4 Bushels.	Bushels.	Sufficient to sow acres.	Acreage sown.	PRICE.		
								Extra Picked Riga. ¾ Brl.	Dutch. ¾ Hhd.	English ¾ qr.
1864	86,503	29,541	503	11,573	559,360	279,680	301,693	59/4	87/-	84/-
1865	58,205	34,837	50	16,817	515,194	257,597	251,534	53/10	74/4	71/-
1866	59,943	36,136	50	18,496	537,086	268,543	263,507	67/4	120/10	83/4
1867	98,470	16,591	...	5,792	483,950	241,975	253,257	42/2	101/10	74/-
1868	45,580	19,414	...	7,608	325,860	162,930	206,446	61/7	102/1	90/9
1869	95,996	23,111	...	8,975	533,663	266,831	229,178	41/8	88/9.	78/3
1870	*61,877	15,600	...	3,800	340,969	170,484	194,893	41/-	84/6	72/-

* This includes the Seed received from Antwerp.

ANALYSIS OF IRISH, BELGIUM, AND DUTCH WATERS USED
FOR RETTING FLAX.

No.	County.	District.	Name.	Hardness.	Observations.
0		Standard Water.		16.00	
1	King's Co.	Banagher	Capt. Armstrong	12.54	* Trace of Iron
2	"	Kilcommon	Thos. Rhodes	17.90	
3	Tipperary	Borrisokane	R. H. Falkiner	16.30	
4	Waterford	Near City	George Ledlie	10.00	
5	Cork	" "	—	23.95	
6	"	" "	W. A. Clifton	6.55	
7	"	Bandon	A. Calwell	3.95	*
8	"	"	Earl of Bandon	8.55	*
9	"	Dunmanway	Joseph Bryan	3.15	
10	"	"	"	6.95	* Bog Water
11	"	Clonakilty	John Sheil	17.40	
12	"	"	Geo. Ronaldson	6.25	*
13	"	Skibbereen	R. H. H. Beecher	4.55	
14	"	"	"	4.35	Bog Water
15	"	"	Patrick Walsh	4.55	
16	"	"	Mr. Jennings	8.70	*
17	"	"	Mr. Summerville	9.50	
18	"	Fermoy	Mr. Porter	4.30	
19	"	Mallow	George Bolster	4.05	
20	"	"	"	4.20	
21	"	Newmarket	J. L. O'Keefe	4.15	
22	Kerry	Dingle	Hon. F. De Mo- leyns	9.00	*
23	"	Listowel	George Hewson	17.00	*
24	Clare	Tulla	Major Maloney	10.55	
25	"	"	"	10.40	
26	Roscommon	—	Michael Flynn	25.60	Very impure
27	Holland	River that fills ditches		12.90	
28	"	Very good ditch		16.00	*
29	"	Bad ditch—natural wells		17.70	*
30	Longford	View Mount	M. W. O'Connor	16.20	Cooleny River
31	"	—	—	10.99	Bog Water
32	King's Co.	Kilcommon	Thomas Rhodes	17.50	
33	"	"	"	18.50	*
34	Roscommon	Boyle (Doon)	P. Waters	7.90	
35	"	"	Mr. Huggins	10.80	Containing Iron
36	"	Boyle River	—	10.40	
37	"	Eskey River	—	6.90	
38	"	Boyle	Mr. Henigan	10.50	Deerpark
39	"	Strokestown	Michael Flynn	18.20	Pond
40	"	"	—	14.00	Ballyfanny

* Sulphuretted Hydrogen given off.

No.	County.	District.	Name.	Hardness.	Observations.
41	Roscommon	Strokestown	G. Walpole	14.60	Mill Race
42	Mayo	Ballyhaderin	Thos. Strickland	8.80	
43	"	"	"	10.60	
44	"	Kil'ala, Rassash	Major Knox	19.50	
45	"	—	"	10.80	Mill Race
46	"	Ballina	John Dunbar	18.50	
47	"	Abbeytown	George Orme	15.20	
48	"	River Moy	—	9.80	
49	Galway	Ballymoe	Mr. Edgar	12.40	Trace of Iron
50	"	"	"	19.80	
51	Down	Comber	James Andrews	8.00	
52	"	Gilford	J. Dickson	7.00	
53	"	"	—	4.90	River Bann
54	"	Madden Bridge	—	8.00	Lough Dynan
55	Belgium	At Courtrai	—	16.30	River Lys
56	Holland	Good Ditch	—	10.00	Exposed to At- mosphere
57	"	"	—	12.40	From Canal
58	Antrim	Dunmurry	A. C. Weir	14.57	River
59	"	"	"	14.26	
60	Armagh	Forkhill	J. F. Smith	6.42	
61	Tyrone	Annie Hill	Alexander Lang	16.10	
62	Down	Fedney	D. B. Hawthorn	13.65	Spring River
63	"	"	"	11.41	
64	"	Rathfriland	B. B. Meek	3.92	
65	"	"	"	8.15	
66	Antrim	Lisrodden	Wm. M'Caw	9.57	Gravelly Hill
67	"	Bracknamuck- ley	"	9.98	
68	"	Broughshane	J. B. Black	7.33	
69	"	Taylorstown	"	8.46	
70	"	Buckna	"	7.54	
71	"	Killyfast	"	14.67	
72	"	Buckna	Wm. Gilchrist	6.16	
73	"	Cloughmills	A. Lavender	5.81	
74	"	Cullybackey	Robert Hilton	5.91	Coates' Well Dam Wood End Castletown
75	"	Dunmurry	A. C. Weir	26.09	
76	Londonderry	Coleraine	Charles Kanes	14.98	
77	Tyrone	Strabane	James Trimble	6.91	
78	"	"	"	9.77	

TABLE SHOWING GROSS PRODUCE OF FLAX, YIELD PER ACRE, PER CENTAGE OF ACREAGE UNDER CROP TO TOTAL ACREAGE; ALSO PER CENTAGE OF ACREAGE UNDER FLAX TO ACREAGE UNDER CROP IN IRELAND, FROM THE YEAR 1850 TO 1870, INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Total Acreage in Ireland.	Acreage under Crop.	Acreage under Flax.	Gross produce.	Yield per acre.		Per centage of Acreage under Crop to Total Acreage.	Per Centage of Acreage under Flax to Acreage under Crop.
				Tons.	Stones.	Lbs.		
1850.	20,815,111	5,758,292	91,040	22,427	39	5	27.66	1.58
1851.		5,858,951	140,536	33,861	38	8	28.15	2.39
1852.		5,739,214	137,008	35,462	41	6	27.57	2.39
1853.		5,696,951	174,579	43,862	40	3	27.37	3.06
1854.		5,568,376	150,972	35,606	37	10	26.75	2.71
1855.		5,688,836	97,106	23,428	38	9	27.33	1.70
1856.		5,753,681	106,826	18,791	28	2	27.64	1.85
1857.		5,860,089	98,074	14,475	23	9	28.15	1.67
1858.		5,882,052	91,646	17,583	30	9	28.26	1.55
1859.		5,862,605	136,282	21,576	25	5	28.16	2.32
1860.		5,967,970	128,595	23,760	29	8	28.67	2.15
1861.		5,890,536	147,866	22,568	24	6	28.29	2.51
1862.		5,753,610	150,070	24,258	26	3	27.64	2.61
1863.		5,672,487	214,099	42,346	31	12	27.25	3.77
1864.		5,672,980	301,693	64,506	34	6	27.25	5.31
1865.		5,645,403	251,534	39,561	25	2	27.12	4.45
1866.		5,520,568	263,507	40,991	24	12	26.52	4.77
1867.		5,458,945	253,257	35,892	22	5	26.22	4.64
1868.		5,547,335	206,446	24,87	19	5	26.65	3.71
1869.		5,575,843	229,178	29,69	20	8	26.78	4.11
1870.		5,642,556	194,893	Official Return.			27.11	3.45

TABLE SHOWING ACREAGE UNDER FLAX IN EACH COUNTY AND PROVINCE IN IRELAND

	Counties.	Total Acreage.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	
ULSTER.	Donegal,.....	1,193,443	14,169	21,689	21,604	25,610	26,062	15,799	17,654	15,562	16,480	22,283	
	Tyrone,.....	806,296	13,280	18,908	18,916	24,232	22,161	13,224	14,746	14,362	15,107	23,012	
	Antrim,.....	761,803	8,106	11,912	9,318	11,252	8,942	6,719	6,030	4,254	3,675	7,637	
	Down,.....	612,495	9,895	15,034	19,659	26,957	19,806	11,166	13,510	13,969	12,266	21,265	
	Londonderry,.....	522,350	13,445	18,468	17,146	19,233	17,074	11,818	13,959	12,495	12,665	17,537	
	Cavan,.....	477,360	5,107	8,942	7,566	12,105	8,842	6,029	6,024	4,962	3,252	5,688	
	Fermanagh,.....	457,287	1,283	2,800	2,537	3,988	3,603	2,006	1,934	1,573	1,719	3,218	
	Armagh,.....	328,076	5,623	13,052	14,596	19,537	16,295	9,284	10,917	12,222	10,409	15,087	
	Monaghan,.....	319,757	10,157	14,602	13,833	17,394	16,218	11,859	12,137	11,537	10,812	14,612	
		5,478,867	85,065	125,407	125,175	160,308	139,003	87,904	96,911	90,936	86,385	130,339	
MUNSTER.	Cork,.....	1,849,683	853	2,816	1,710	2,392	3,297	2,393	1,569	1,278	368	430	
	Kerry,.....	1,185,917	300	678	680	1,035	673	621	1,039	549	476	522	
	Tipperary,.....	1,061,731	187	606	388	338	199	103	99	130	86	99	
	Clare,.....	827,994	506	1,014	908	1,008	909	890	949	672	612	521	
	Limerick,.....	681,112	225	607	312	347	316	244	230	207	196	124	
	Waterford,.....	461,553	23	270	181	105	31	43	49	47	35	38	
		6,067,990	2,094	5,991	4,179	5,225	5,425	4,294	3,935	2,883	1,773	1,734	
LEINSTER.	Meath,.....	580,083	343	957	716	588	481	267	213	195	185	232	
	Wexford,.....	576,588	193	374	346	461	466	825	1,551	456	148	74	
	Kilkenny,.....	509,732	32	226	95	78	54	45	46	41	41	29	
	Wicklow,.....	500,178	8	34	5	4	5	1	2	1	1	3	
	King's Co.,.....	493,985	79	264	320	197	214	254	238	204	247	262	
	Westmeath,.....	453,468	207	424	246	259	260	200	203	185	172	146	
	Queen's Co.,.....	424,854	131	158	66	14	10	7	8	15	29	25	
	Kildare,.....	418,436	23	47	17	28	6	9	4	3	3	2	
	Longford,.....	269,409	318	783	678	732	592	262	388	282	274	360	
	Dublin,.....	226,414	21	26	1	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	
	Carlow,.....	221,342	58	117	65	43	33	81	159	128	53	8	
	Louth,.....	201,722	388	1,479	1,878	2,091	694	190	219	321	349	523	
		4,876,211	1,801	4,889	4,433	4,497	2,820	2,142	3,032	1,833	1,503	1,665	
CONNAUGHT.	Galway,.....	1,566,354	211	584	546	784	782	544	532	426	317	322	
	Mayo,.....	1,363,882	939	1,321	900	1,192	999	741	923	789	593	726	
	Roscommon,.....	607,691	200	522	372	528	429	384	436	331	266	402	
	Sligo,.....	461,753	363	873	588	695	493	379	377	312	306	247	
	Leitrim,.....	392,363	367	949	815	1,350	1,021	718	680	564	503	847	
		4,392,043	2,080	4,249	3,221	4,549	3,724	2,766	2,948	2,422	1,985	2,544	
SUMMARY													
ULSTER,.....		5,478,867	85,065	125,407	125,175	160,308	139,003	87,904	96,911	90,936	86,385	130,339	
MUNSTER,.....		6,067,990	2,094	5,991	4,179	5,225	5,425	4,294	3,935	2,883	1,773	1,734	
LEINSTER,.....		4,876,211	1,801	4,889	4,433	4,497	2,820	2,142	3,032	1,833	1,503	1,665	
CONNAUGHT,.....		4,392,043	2,080	4,249	3,221	4,549	3,724	2,766	2,948	2,422	1,985	2,544	
TOTAL OF IRELAND,.....		20,815,111	91,040	140,536	137,008	174,579	150,972	97,106	106,826	98,074	91,646	136,282	

IN IRELAND, FROM THE YEAR 1850 TO 1870, INCLUSIVE.

NO. 2.

ID.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	Counties.	
398	20,838	19,489	24,132	29,644	23,495	25,849	24,731	22,272	25,973	24,417	Donegal,.....	ULSTER.
414	22,991	24,834	32,007	41,294	36,685	37,888	35,641	29,116	34,595	30,555	Tyrone,.....	
598	12,250	13,020	21,576	34,688	26,475	27,879	22,691	20,137	20,071	16,955	Antrim,.....	
063	27,657	30,532	44,963	59,156	49,016	51,762	48,044	36,904	37,550	31,134	Down,.....	
971	19,720	19,698	25,872	32,750	28,453	30,388	26,770	22,100	24,111	22,379	Londonderry,....	
710	5,891	6,150	10,260	15,945	11,933	13,557	16,379	13,104	14,866	11,118	Cavan,.....	
399	2,633	2,273	4,482	7,494	5,841	7,225	8,015	6,640	8,961	6,842	Fermanagh,	
702	16,653	16,204	24,001	31,659	28,682	27,245	27,808	21,745	22,739	17,349	Armagh,.....	
169	14,403	14,289	20,054	25,513	22,709	23,563	24,551	20,204	22,178	19,667	Monaghan,	
1,424	143,036	146,489	207,347	278,143	233,289	245,356	234,630	192,222	211,044	180,416		
417	419	291	663	2,941	1,762	1,496	1,197	1,097	2,020	2,655	Cork,.....	MUNSTER.
450	307	259	378	1,190	930	772	543	531	538	413	Kerry,.....	
134	178	197	327	1,005	505	428	365	297	349	420	Tipperary,	
502	498	441	586	1,413	1,148	1,082	879	687	693	538	Clare,.....	
137	104	73	190	773	459	239	140	126	107	110	Limerick,.....	
26	12	13	38	258	176	153	124	69	89	52	Waterford,.....	
666	1,518	1,274	2,182	7,580	4,980	4,170	3,248	2,807	3,796	4,188		
151	182	139	325	880	641	1,050	1,346	841	670	551	Meath,.....	LEINSTER.
41	21	18	34	201	241	379	562	511	242	155	Wexford,.....	
18	11	19	50	271	255	184	77	68	62	49	Kilkenny,	
0	1	0	4	6	3	7	1	6	2	0	Wicklow,.....	
218	149	162	335	787	489	691	442	202	248	593	King's Co.,.....	
129	78	68	159	594	372	42	234	160	218	152	Westmeath,.....	
35	26	37	63	268	422	674	158	84	74	102	Queen's Co.,.....	
5	2	1	7	19	35	21	6	5	3	1	Kildare,.....	
308	310	192	406	1,700	967	1,150	1,337	1,130	1,749	1,159	Longford,.....	
0	0	1	1	35	24	12	25	6	8	2	Dublin,.....	
7	1	3	12	81	96	48	27	22	19	11	Carlow,.....	
377	362	181	702	2,546	2,317	2,704	3,843	2,133	1,963	1,464	Louth,.....	
289	1,143	821	2,098	7,388	5,862	7,262	8,058	5,168	5,258	4,239		
262	192	138	300	1,539	1,147	996	606	573	847	498	Galway,.....	CONNAUGHT.
631	746	455	696	2,088	2,242	1,876	2,255	2,087	2,923	2,560	Mayo,.....	
383	254	173	330	1,592	1,301	1,172	1,782	1,574	2,408	1,094	Roscommon,....	
286	277	191	259	1,150	1,088	856	633	541	947	779	Sligo,.....	
654	700	529	887	2,213	1,625	1,819	2,045	1,474	1,955	1,119	Leitrim,.....	
2,216	2,169	1,486	2,472	8,582	7,403	6,719	7,321	6,249	9,080	6,050		
3,424	143,036	146,489	207,347	278,143	233,289	245,356	234,630	192,222	211,044	180,416	ULSTER.	
1,666	1,518	1,274	2,182	7,580	4,980	4,170	3,248	2,807	3,796	4,188	MUNSTER.	
1,289	1,143	821	2,098	7,388	5,862	7,262	8,058	5,168	5,258	4,239	LEINSTER.	
2,216	2,169	1,486	2,472	8,582	7,403	6,719	7,321	6,249	9,080	6,050	CONNAUGHT.	
3,595	147,866	150,070	214,099	301,693	251,534	263,507	253,257	206,446	229,178	194,893	TOTAL OF IRELAND.	

